

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1-7. (Cancel)

8. (New) A protective sheath made of a woven synthetic fabric having a structure formed of high tenacity warp and weft yarns, the count of said yarns ranging from 400 to 2000 decitex and the number of said yarns ranging from 54 to 78 yarns per centimetre, said woven synthetic fabric being chemically finished with a continuous dyeing process.

9. (New) A protective sheath according to claim 8, wherein said woven synthetic fabric is physically finished with a calendering process.

10. (New) A protective sheath according to claim 8, wherein the warp and weft yarns are made of a synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polyamide (PA) and polyester (PES).

11. (New) A protective sheath according to claim 10, wherein the warp and weft yarns made of polyamide (PA) have a count of 470, 630, 940, 1400 or 1800 decitex.

12. (New) A protective sheath according to claim 10, wherein the warp and weft yarns made of polyester (PES) have a count of 400, 500, 600, 800, 1000, 1100 or 2000 decitex.

13. (New) A protective sheath formed of a multi-layer fabric comprising an inner layer and an outer layer of a woven synthetic fabric, each layer of the multi-layer fabric having a structure formed of high tenacity warp and weft yarns, the count of said yarns ranging from 400 to 2000 decitex and the number of said yarns ranging from 54 to 78 yarns per centimetre, and each layer of said multi-layer fabric being chemically finished with a continuous dyeing process, whereby said layers

of the multi-layer fabric are dyed with different colors, thus permitting the degree of wear of the outer layer of the multi-layer fabric to be indicated.

14. (New) A protective sheath according to claim 13, wherein said layers of the multi-layer fabric are physically finished with a calendering process.

15. (New) The combination of a flexible tube for conveying an energy transmitting fluid and a protective sheath enclosing said flexible tube, wherein said protective sheath is made of a woven synthetic fabric having a structure formed of high tenacity warp and weft yarns, the count of said yarns ranging from 400 to 2000 decitex and the number of said yarns ranging from 54 to 78 yarns per centimetre, said woven synthetic fabric being chemically finished with a continuous dyeing process.

16. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said woven synthetic fabric is physically finished with a calendering process.

17. (New) The combination of a flexible tube for conveying an energy transmitting fluid and a protective sheath enclosing said flexible tube, wherein said protective sheath is formed of a multi-layer fabric comprising an inner layer and an outer layer of a woven synthetic fabric, each layer of the multi-layer fabric having a structure formed of high tenacity warp and weft yarns, the count of said yarns ranging from 400 to 2000 decitex and the number of said yarns ranging from 54 to 78 yarns per centimetre, and each layer of said multi-layer fabric being chemically finished with a continuous dyeing process, whereby said layers of the multi-layer fabric are dyed with different colors, thus permitting the degree of wear of the outer layer of the multi-layer fabric to be indicated.

18. (New) The combination of claim 17, wherein each layer of said multi-layer fabric is physically finished with a calendering process.